



COMCAST[®]
CORPORATION

1500 Market Street

Philadelphia, PA 19102-2148

215-665-1700

Comcast Cablevision
of Maryland, L.P.
8031 Corporate Drive
Baltimore, Maryland 21236
410 931-4600 Fax 410 931-6345



For Immediate Release
March 24, 1997

Contact: Mitchell Schmale
(410) 356-8822

Susanna Craine
(410) 830-2230

COMCAST TO PROVIDE TOWSON STATE UNIVERSITY WITH HIGH-SPEED INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE

More than 3,000 Towson State University Students to Benefit from Fastest Residential Internet Service in the State

Baltimore, MD -- Comcast Cablevision of Maryland, L.P. today announced that it has reached an agreement with Towson State University to provide the university with the fastest residential Internet access for students available in the state, as well as one of the fastest in the nation. The agreement makes Towson State University the first university in Maryland, as well as one of the first institutes of higher learning in the entire country to offer a high-speed Internet service for use in student residences. The high-speed Internet service, called Comcast@Towson State University, will be provided to 1,700 residential and dormitory rooms throughout Towson State University serving more than 3,000 students.

The high-speed Internet service uses Comcast's hybrid fiber optic coax (HFC) network, Towson State University's HFC Network and Motorola Cable modems to provide this ground breaking student service. With access speeds hundreds of times faster than telephone modems, students will receive multimedia Internet content available only to customers of Comcast's pioneering, multi-megabit Comcast@Home service. The local online content will include information about Baltimore and its surrounding communities, as well as other content specific to Towson State University, including class schedules, course information, university announcements and other information. In addition, Comcast@Towson State University will also provide access to all other national and international content available on the Internet.

(More)

Towson State University will become one of the first public institutions in the entire nation to receive such a state-of-the-art, high-speed residential Internet service. The agreement between Comcast and Towson State University was ratified by the Maryland State Board of Public Works. The agreement calls for all 1,700 residential locations to be wired with Comcast@Towson State University Internet service by late May 1997.

“We are proud to provide the educational and learning benefits of the Internet to the students of Towson State University with this ultra high-speed service. This service will make TSU a national leader in high-speed Internet access,” said Jaye Gamble, area vice president for Comcast’s Baltimore metropolitan systems. “Comcast’s high-speed Internet access service will be a tremendous asset for TSU as it strives to be competitive with other universities both locally and nationally,” adds Gamble.

“Towson State University looks forward to establishing itself as an educational pioneer in the field of high-speed Internet service both in Maryland and throughout the entire nation thanks to Comcast’s new service,” said Dr. Hoke L. Smith, president of Towson State University. “This amazing learning tool will prove to be an invaluable student benefit as it opens up a whole new world of knowledge and information previously unavailable to our students,” adds Smith.

“In an information-based economy, technology is no longer a luxury,” said Maryland Governor Parris N. Glendening. “If our students are to succeed, we must prepare them by providing ready access to technology. Today’s announcement moves us another important step in that direction. Maryland’s future walks through the doors of our colleges and universities every day. Here at Towson State University today, that future just got a little brighter,” added Glendening.

(More)

"This announcement benefits Maryland's students as Towson State University works to shape the leaders of Maryland's future workforce," said Baltimore County Executive C.A. "Dutch" Ruppertsberger. "Comcast's initiatives are allowing our students to become increasingly competitive as they work to become the leaders of tomorrow," added Ruppertsberger.

"Through the use of Comcast's high-speed data service, Towson State University becomes a premiere metropolitan university for the 21st Century," said Kirk Holmes, general manager for Comcast Online Communications in the Baltimore metropolitan area. "The educational experience is now transformed into a global community adventure," adds Holmes.

The new service for Towson State University was made possible after the Baltimore metropolitan area recently became the first in the nation to receive the residential high-speed Internet service called Comcast@Home. This high-speed Internet access service is the first to be offered by any cable company in the state of Maryland and one of the few multi-megabit residential services being offered for sale in the world. Comcast is currently offering its interactive service to residential customers in northern and western portions of Baltimore County and is expanding rapidly to the rest of the county. The service will be expanded to Howard County in upcoming months.

Through the use of the @Home Network's high speed national backbone, a cable modem and the hybrid cable infrastructure, this service offers unparalleled speed to its users. Comcast encourages its customers to stay connected 24-hours a day with instant access to multimedia entertainment, news and information pertaining to the Baltimore area. Comcast@Towson State University and Comcast@Home feature local content, including 3-D multimedia tours of local museums, such as The Walters Art Gallery, and an agreement allowing users to go online with Baltimore Magazine. Comcast@Towson State University and Comcast@Home do not require a telephone line and the services do not interfere with cable television reception.

(More)

Comcast@Towson State University and Comcast@Home deliver 24-hour unlimited broadband Internet access and national and local content directly to a user's personal computer via a coaxial cable connection, a cable modem and industry leading browsers from Netscape and Microsoft. The data transmission speed of the cable modem is hundreds of times faster than traditional dial-up phone modems and approximately 75 times faster than an ISDN line. Faster speed allows customers to more thoroughly enjoy multimedia content such as video and audio clips and 3-D virtual reality images. In addition to unlimited Internet access and content, Comcast@Towson State University and Comcast@Home supply customers with access to communications tools such as e-mail, chat rooms and professionally trained user support.

Comcast@Towson State University and Comcast@Home are made possible in part by Comcast's multi-year, \$100 million fiber optic upgrade of its Baltimore metropolitan system. The fiber optic cable network allows Comcast to offer the Internet service through the use of high-speed cable modems as opposed to telephone lines used by other Internet providers.

Comcast Cablevision offers cable television services, Internet services, paging services and long distance telephone service, and serves more than 300,000 residents in Baltimore, Howard and Harford Counties. Comcast Cablevision, whose regional headquarters are located in White Marsh, employs more than 500 people in the state of Maryland.

Comcast Online Communications, through its partnership with the @Home Network, offers residential customers the fastest, easiest, and most entertaining way to access the Internet from home. The Comcast@Home network is professionally installed, easy to use, and does not require a telephone line.

(More)

Towson State University (TSU) is a comprehensive metropolitan university and a member of the University of Maryland System. TSU emphasizes excellence in teaching and provides a broad range of undergraduate programs in both the traditional arts and sciences and in applied professional fields and selected masters-level programs. TSU aspires to enhance its key role in the educational, economic and cultural life of Maryland, to expand its partnerships with Baltimore County, Baltimore City and surrounding counties, and to offer post-baccalaureate programs that serve societal needs. During the next five years, TSU plans continued enhancement of selected programmatic areas in education, theater, women's studies and writing; enhancement in support of American Association of Collegiate Schools of business (AACSB) standards, including accreditation of accounting; implementation of an assessment program and improved advising and support services; introduction of multi-cultural, multi-ethnic studies and promotion of international education throughout the curriculum; and continued assimilation of new technologies and implementation of the "Information Resources Enhancement Plan."

Comcast Corporation is principally engaged in the development, management and operation of wired telecommunications including cable television and telephone services; wireless telecommunications including cellular, personal communication services and direct-to-home satellite television; and content through principal ownership of QVC, the world's premier electronic retailer, through C3 (Comcast Content and Communication), through majority ownership of Comcast-Spectacor and through other programming investments. The Company's consolidated and affiliated operations serve over ten million customers worldwide.

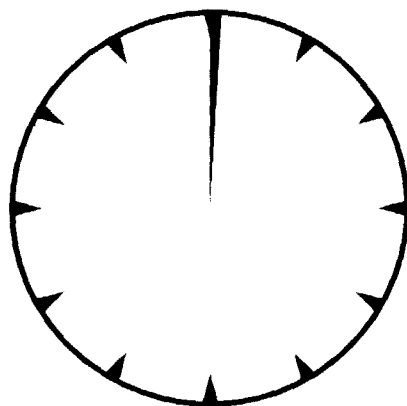
Comcast's Class A and Class A Special Common Stock are traded on the Nasdaq Stock Market under the symbols CMCSA and CMCSK, respectively.

###



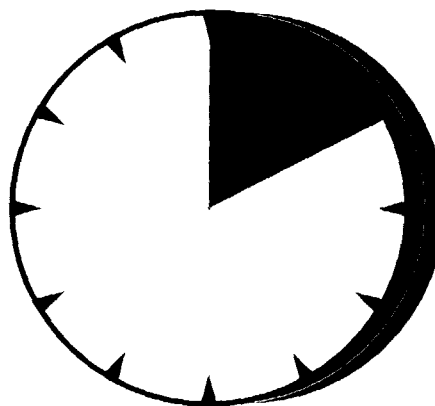
Estimated Download Time For a 2 MB File

Cable Modem



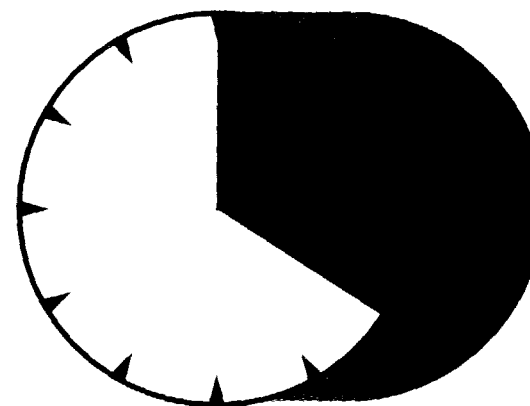
10 Seconds

ISDN



2.1 Minutes

28.8 Modem



9.3 Minutes

MARYLAND

Towson to wire dorms for Internet

\$2 million deal to give
campus residents
fast access via cable

By MARY MAUSHARD
SUN STAFF

Busy signals should soon be history for Towson State University students trying to surf the Internet.

Thanks to a \$2.2 million deal with Comcast Cablevision of Maryland, TSU's 3,000 dormitory residents will have almost instant access to the Internet and World Wide Web by May, say university and cable officials.

In an agreement approved in January and to be unveiled today, TSU will become the first university in Maryland — and one of just a few in the country — to offer high-speed Internet services in its dormitories, using the same cable that brings in television channels.

The service, known as Comcast@Towson State University, also will include Comcast-generated news, entertainment and virtual-reality tours of local cultural attractions, such as the Walters Art Gallery.

The university will also be able to create content — class schedules, course information and departmental announcements, said Jaye Gamble, area vice president of Comcast's Baltimore metropolitan systems.

"It's tremendous for our students. It provides literally the latest, state-of-the-art technology for them," said Dr. John D. Haeger, the university provost. The university has about 1,700 dorm rooms, which will be connected to Comcast.

Haeger said the school was looking at the possibility of adding the service to every office and classroom. "Think, maybe three or four years from now ... students could be taking courses in their homes. I suspect it will redefine the timing of courses," he said.

The agreement, approved in January by the Maryland Board of Public Works, covers three years of cable and Internet access.

It includes equipment, in-

TSU to have fast access to Internet

[Internet, from Page 1B]

week help desk for students, said Deborah Leather, associate vice president for instructional technologies at Towson State.

"Students are going to be able to click out onto a lot of areas very quickly. They are going to get very high speed," Leather said. "It's very exciting."

To access the Internet from dormitories now, students must have their own computers, an online service and a phone.

Haeger noted that the school could not meet the demand for access by adding modems as increasing numbers of students own computers and more professors require Internet access for courses.

To use the service, students will pay a \$50 installation fee for their computers, which will need a "network interface card" to plug into the system, Leather said.

Costs in addition to the installation fee will be included in the university's room and board fees, as is cable service. Students who do not use such services still will pay for them, Leather said. She would not say how much of the fees would be allotted for the Internet service.

The service is an adaptation of Comcast@Home, which the company introduced late last year to bring high-speed Internet access to its cable customers, beginning in parts of Baltimore County.

Cable modems, which will be installed at Towson State, are 75 times faster at downloading files from the Internet than the most advanced products available through telephone companies, Comcast said when it introduced the service.

With Comcast@Towson State, "the connection in the dorm room is always on," said Kirk Holmes, general manager for Comcast's Online Communications in this area. "This is ease of access. And the raw speed ... rivals what an organization would have to pay many, many thousands of dollars a month for."

Said Comcast's Gamble: "From the standpoint of the university and from Comcast, this is a very innovative use of the equipment. This will be the first institution of its kind in our market area."